

As the lowest tier of democratically elected representatives in the country, parish councils have the mandate to speak on behalf of the people they represent. It is important that parish councils learn how to do this with authority and integrity in order to have the optimum effect.

List of Parish Council Powers (this is not an exhaustive list)

<b>Function</b>	<b>Powers &amp; Duties</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>
Allotments	Duty to provide allotments. Power to improve and adapt land for allotments, and to let grazing rights	Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908, ss. 23, 26, and 42
Baths and washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936, ss. 221, 222, 223 and 227
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain Power to provide Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Open Spaces Act 1906, Ss 9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972, s. 214; Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s. 1 Local Government Act 1972, s. 214(6)
Bus shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s. 4
Bye-laws	Power to make bye-laws in regard to pleasure grounds Cycle parks Baths and washhouses Open spaces and burial grounds Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1875, s. 164 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.57(7) Public Health Act 1936, s.223 Open Spaces Act 1906, s.15 Public Health Act 1936, s.198
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2
Closed churchyards	Powers as to maintenance	Local Government Act 1972, s.215
Common pastures	Powers in relation to providing common pasture	Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.34
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
Community centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or recreational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

Crime prevention	<p>Powers to install and maintain equipment and establish and maintain a scheme for detection or prevention of crime</p> <p>Power to contribute to police services e.g. PCSOs</p> <p>Duty on Parish Councils to consider crime reduction in every policy and action</p>	<p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31</p> <p>Police Act 1996, s.92</p> <p>s17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended)</p>
Drainage	<p>Power to deal with ponds and ditches</p>	<p>Public Health Act 1936, s.260</p>
Dogs	<p>Power to make a Dog Control Order</p> <p>Power to take enforcement action against those who commit an offence against a Dog Control Order</p>	<p>Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005</p>
Entertainment and the arts	<p>Provision of entertainment and support of the arts</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972, s.145</p>
Flyposting and Graffiti	<p>Power to take enforcement action against those that flypost or graffiti</p>	<p>Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005</p>
Gifts	<p>Power to accept</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972, s.139</p>
Highways	<p>Power to maintain footpaths and bridle-ways</p> <p>Power to light roads and public places</p> <p>Provision of litter bins</p> <p>Powers to provide parking places for bicycles and motor-cycles, and other vehicles</p> <p>Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening</p> <p>Power to provide roadside seats and shelters</p> <p>Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway</p> <p>Power to complain to highway authority as to unlawful stopping up or obstruction of highway or</p>	<p>Highways Act 1980, ss.43,50</p> <p>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3;</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, s.301</p> <p>Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6</p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss.57,63</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, ss.30,72</p> <p>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, ss.47,116</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, s.130</p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, s.96</p>

	<p>unlawful encroachment on roadside wastes</p> <p>Power to provide traffic signs and other objects or devices warning of danger</p> <p>Power to plant trees and lay out grass verges etc. and to maintain them</p>	
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment	Trustee Investments Act 1961, s.11
Land	<p>Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of</p> <p>Power to accept gifts of land</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972, ss.124, 126, 127</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972, s.139</p>
Litter	<p>Provision of receptacles</p> <p>Power to take enforcement action against those that litter</p>	<p>Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6</p> <p>Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005</p>
Lotteries	Powers to promote	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, s.7
Mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936, s.198
Open spaces	Power to acquire land and maintain	<p>Public Health Act 1875, s.164</p> <p>Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10</p>
Parish documents	Powers to direct as to their custody	Local Government Act 1972, s.226
Telecommunications facilities	Power to pay public telecommunications operators any loss sustained providing telecommunication facilities	Telecommunications Act 1984, s.97
Public buildings and village hall	Power to provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
Public conveniences	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936, s.87
Sustainable communities	Able to be represented on a panel of representatives to be consulted on proposals that would contribute to sustainable communities	Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Town and country planning	Right to be notified of planning applications	Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched.1, para. 8
Tourism	Power to encourage visitors and provide conference and other facilities	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
Traffic calming	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	Highways Act 1980, s.274A
Transport	Powers in relation to car-sharing schemes, taxi fare concessions and information about transport Powers to make grants for bus services	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26, 28 and 29 Transport Act 1985, s.106A
War memorials	Power to maintain, repair, protect and alter war memorials	War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s.133
Water supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water from them	Public Health Act 1936, s.125
Well-Being	Power to well-being of the area (for eligible councils)	s2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 2000

